

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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P 190753X APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3806

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, CD

SUBJECT: PARM - ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PART II.

REF: STATE 38356

PART II - RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

A. STATE

THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, ONE POLITICAL OFFICER AND ONE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER. THIS LEAN STAFF IS SUFFICIENT. HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY SO WHEN THE POSITIONS ARE ALL FILLED. IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, THE POSITION OF AMBASSADOR WAS VACANT FOR SIX MONTHS, THAT OF THE POLITICAL OFFICER WAS VACANT FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD, AND THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SLOT WAS VACANT FOR FOUR MONTHS, IN ADDITION TO ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE, R&R TRAVEL, AND OCCASIONAL TDY ASSIGNMENTS. THIS SITUATION DOES NOT PERMIT A WELL-ORDERED APPROACH TO US OBJECTIVES AND COURSES OF ACTION. REPROGRAMMING OF FUNCTIONS IS THUS A

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NEARLY DAILY NECESSITY RATHER THAN A MANAGEMENT TOOL.

EMBASSY N'DJAMENA IS UNUSUAL IF NOT UNIQUE IN REGARD TO ITS APPROACH TO ADMINISTRATION. THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS DOUBLED IN TWO YEARS, LARGELY DUE TO THE AID BUILD-UP WHICH HAS FOLLOWED SIGNIFICANT CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL. THIS BUILD-UP

WILL CONTINUE AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS AS PROJECTS BEGIN TO BE ESTABLISHED. THE EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION HAS CURRENTLY FIVE AMERICAN POSITIONS - ADMIN OFFICER, TWO GSO'S (ONE OF WHOM IS SECONDED FROM AID), AND TWO COMMUNICATORS. THE SECTION SERVICES, HOWEVER, ALL OFFICIAL AMERICANS IN CHAD EXCEPT FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING AID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYEES OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS PERFORMING WORK UNDER CONTRACT TO AID. WE BELIEVE THIS UNIFIED APPROACH WILL LEAD TO LOWER OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS TO THE USG, BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE TO EMPLOYEES, AND, NOT LEAST IMPORTANT, IMPROVED MORALE FOR ALL AMERICANS AS THERE WILL EXIST NO DISTINCTIONS AMONG CLASSES OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFERED TO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS. THE EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION AND TWENTY-FIVE LOCAL POSITIONS TO SERVICE THE GREATLY INCREASED NUMBER OF AMERICAN EMPLOYEES IN N'DJAMENA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SERVICES ON THE LOCAL MARKET ARE OFTEN INADEQUATE OR NON-EXISTENT, AND THAT THE EMBASSY COMPETES FOR THESE SERVICES WITH OTHER MISSIONS, THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THE PETROLEUM COMPANIES, WHO ARE ALSO INCREASING THE SIZE OF THEIR STAFFS.

PROPER MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN CHAD REMAIN A CONSTANT CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN. IN THE PAST A RESIDENT PEACE CORPS MEDICAL OFFICER SERVICED ALL AMERICANS, BUT THIS POSITION HAS BEEN VACANT FOR NEARLY A YEAR. THE EMBASSY CURRENTLY CONTRACTS FOR THE SERVICES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF A FRENCH NURSE, WHICH PROVIDES INTERIM SOLUTION ONLY. THE EMBASSY HAS PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO POSITIONS, ONE CORE AND THE OTHER DAS OF PEACE CORPS. (SEE PC BELOW.)

THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE EMBASSY (ONE AMERICAN AND ONE LOCAL CLERK WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL LOCAL CLERK) HAS FOUND ITS WORK LOAD INCREASING, PRINCIPALLY IN THE AREA OF SERVICES TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS RESIDENT IN CHAD. THE STAFFING IS APPROPRIATE TO THE WORK LOAD.

THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO GIVE INCREASING ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL WORK IN ANTICIPATION OF THE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT A SIGNIFICANT PETROLEUM FIND WILL BE MADE WHICH WILL LEAD TO GREATLY INCREASED IMPORTS AND TO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. A TRAINING PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEvised FOR A QUALIFIED LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS. SHOULD THE COMMERCIAL WORK LOAD SIGNIFICANTLY

INCREASE (IT HAS ALREADY INCREASED SOMEWHAT), THE EMBASSY MAY IN THE FUTURE REQUIRE THIS EMPLOYEE TO WORK FULL TIME ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, AND TO REQUEST A NEW LOCAL POSITION FOR THE CONSULAR SECTION.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS IN N'DJAMENA ARE STAFFED BY TWO COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS. THE STAFFING IS ADEQUATE TO PRESENT NEEDS.

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B. OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE LEVELS

1. AID - AMERICAN STAFFING IS BEING BUILT UP TO REACH ITS AGREED UPON MODE CEILING OF 23 POSITIONS. THERE ARE AS WELL, HOWEVER, SEVERAL CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYEES OF FIRMS UNDER CONTRACT TO AID. THE NUMBERS OF THESE EMPLOYEES WILL INCREASE AS MAJOR PROJECTS REACH THE IMPLEMENTATION STAGE. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION WILL SUPPLY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO AID CONTRACTORS AS WELL AS DIRECT HIRE PERSONNEL. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT RESIDENT AID EMPLOYEES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY AUGMENTED BY VISITING TDY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, SOME OF WHOM SPEND SEVERAL MONTHS IN CHAD. WHETHER THE STAFFING IS APPROPRIATE TO THE PROGRAM CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE WHEN THE PROGRAMS BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL. FUNDS ARE ADEQUATE FOR THE MOMENT. THE QUALITY OF AID PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO N'DJAMENA HAS BEEN UNEVEN ON OCCASION. THE GREATEST SINGLE PROBLEM IS THE ASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL WHO

DO NOT SPEAK ADEQUATE FRENCH AND THEREFORE ARE UNABLE
TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR CHADIAN COUNTERPARTS.

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2. DAO - THE TWO OFFICERS AND ONE NCO WHICH MAKE UP
THE AMERICAN STAFF ARE ADEQUATE FOR THEIR MISSION. THE
DAO WILL NEED ADDITIONAL TRAVEL FUNDS TO MEET ITS INCREASING
COMMITMENTS TO ITS PROGRAMS IN THE CAMEROON, THE DATT'S
SECOND COUNTRY OF ACCREDITATION. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL FACTORS,
THE SCOPE OF THE DAO WORK IN CHAD HAS LESSENNED IN RECENT
YEARS, WHILE THE DECISION TO ABOLISH THE DAO AIRCRAFT IN
1975 HAS LESSENNED THE DATT'S ABILITY TO SERVE NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES. THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING THE DAO TO THE CAMEROON
HAS RECENTLY BEEN RAISED AND IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. USIS - THIS ONE AMERICAN POSITION OPERATION MAY WELL
BE A MODEL OF ITS KIND, DUE NOT LEAST OF ALL TO THE HIGH QUALITY
OF THE OFFICERS RECENTLY ASSIGNED TO NDJAMENA. THE BUDGET
IS ADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT INCREASED FUNDS COULD BE
WELL SPENT IN ENLARGING EXISTING PROGRAMS. ADDITIONAL CU
FUNDS IF AVAILABLE WOULD BE WELCOME TO EXPAND THE INTERNATIONAL
VISITOR PROGRAM, WHILE A QUALITY CU CULTURAL PRESENTATION
WOULD BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE.

4. PEACE CORPS - THIS IS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM, AND
SOME INCREASE IN PCV'S WOULD BE WELCOMED BY CHAD AND
COULD BE WELL UTILIZED. VACANCIES ON THE PEACE CORPS
STAFFING HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM LOCALLY FOR SOME TIME. THERE
HAS BEEN A PROBLEM LOCALLY FOR SOME TIME. THERE
HAS BEEN NO PERMANENT COUNTRY DIRECTOR SINCE LAST AUGUST
AND NONE IS ON THE HORIZON. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY
FORTUNATE IN THE SELECTION OF INTERIM DIRECTORS, THIS IS NOT A
SATISFACTORY PERMANENT SOLUTION. THE PEACE CORPS MEDICAL
OFFICER POSITION, WHICH HAS IN THE PAST SERVICED THE ENTIRE
OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY, HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE MAY OF
1976. NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON FILLING THEIS POSITON,
AND TEMPORARY MEDICAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN HIRED BY STATE FOR
THE PAST YEAR. AS THE PEACE ROPS AND, PARTICULARLY, THE
WHOLE OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY EXPAND, THE EMBASSY
BELIEVES THERE IS A REQUIREMENT FOR TWO POSITIONS, ONE OF
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WICH SHOULD BE FOR A PHYSICIAN. IF THE PEACE CORPS MEDICAL
OFFICER IS TO SATISFACTORILY MEET PC CRITERIA, FOR EXAMPLE,
IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE OFFICER TO SPEND CONSIDERABLE TIME

IN THE FIELD, DURING WHICH TIME NO CARE WOULD BE AVILABLE
TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS IN
N'DJAMENA. FRENCH MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES WHICH ONCE
PROVIDED GOOD CARE TO THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY NO
LONGER EXIST AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THIER RETURN IN THE
IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS DIM. BRADFORD

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